

REMARKS

Applicants note that claims 1-4, 9 and 10 have been allowed, and that claims 6-8 are allowable. Applicants thank the Examiner.

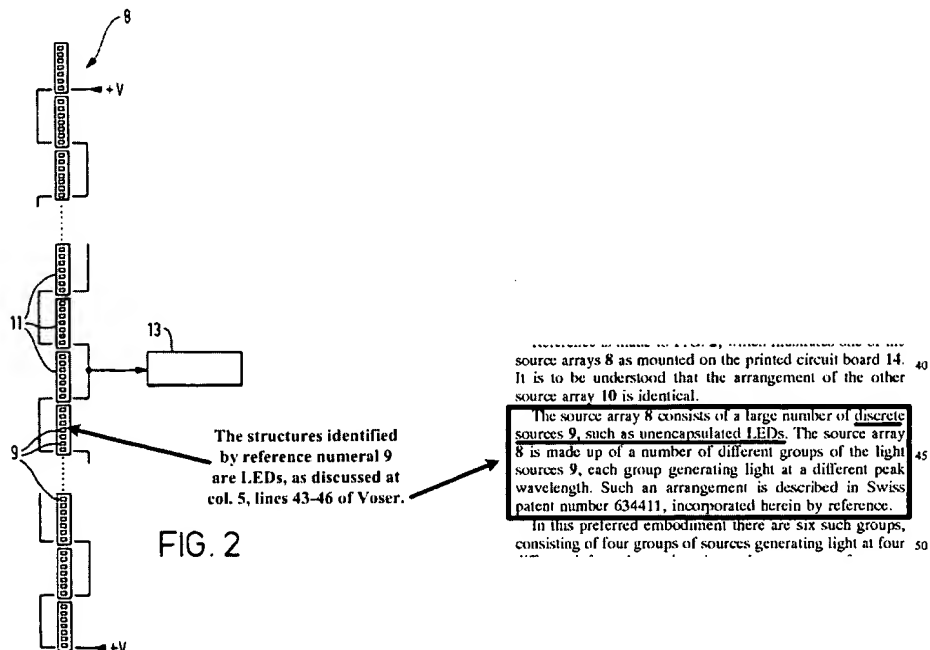
The claims have not been amended. They are reproduced herein as a courtesy to the Examiner.

Rejection of Claims 5 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,172,745 (Voser). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In Applicants' previous response, Applicants pointed out that independent claim 5 requires "light-scattering patterns" to be formed along the longitudinal direction of the light guides. According to the Final Office Action, the structure identified by reference numeral 9 in Figure 2 of Voser is a light-scattering pattern. Applicants respectfully dispute this portrayal of Voser.

As an initial matter, Applicants respectfully point out that on page 15, lines 19-25, of the present application, light-scattering patterns are described as printed or laminated patterns disposed upon a light guide. Turning to Voser, Applicants note that the structures identified by reference numeral 9 in Figure 2, reproduced below, are discrete light sources, such as LEDs. See Voser, col. 5, lines 43-46, also reproduced below.



Devices such as LEDs do not scatter light, and are not fashioned as patterns disposed upon a light guide. Given that LEDs neither scatter light, nor are fashioned as patterns, it is improper to portray such devices as "light-scattering patterns."

Since Voser fails to disclose light-scattering patterns, as required by claim 5, the rejection of claim 5, as being anticipated by Voser is improper. Applicants go on to point out that they can find no motivation stated in Voser to modify the system therein to include such light-scattering patterns. Therefore, the teachings of Voser do not render obvious the invention as articulated in claim 5. For at least the foregoing reasons, the rejection of claim 5 is improper, and Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

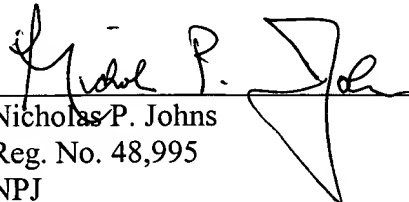
Summary

Claims 1-10 remain pending in this application. Each of these claims is believed to be allowable for the reasons stated herein. This response is believed to be responsive to all points raised in the Office Action. Applicants urge prompt allowance and passage of this application to issuance. If the Examiner believes that discussion of any matter regarding this application is desirable, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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